



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Belleville Fire Dept. to celebrate 100 years with parade, soaring lanterns

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, the Belleville City Council unanimously gave its blessing to activities on Oct. 13 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Belleville Fire Department.

The celebration will be held in conjunction with the annual Harvest Fest downtown and will include a parade of fire apparatus at 10:30 a.m., a display of vintage fire trucks at Victory Park, parking of visiting fire trucks along Main Street, and a dramatic release of lighted Chinese lanterns at dusk from the Denton Road Bridge.

Fire Fighter Colette McClinton is in charge of arrangements for the celebration and she explained it all to the council.

There was a lot of discussion about the paper lanterns, which are small hot air balloons, with a little fire source to heat up the air that causes them to soar. Most of the retail Sky Lanterns are 40" tall and create a bright light as they fly skyward.

McClinton said they don't have the lanterns in hand, as yet.

City Manager Diana Kollmeyer told the council she had called the DNR to see if it had any problem with lighted lanterns soaring over the lake. She reported the DNR official she talked to didn't know what a Chinese lantern was and said there were no rules against them. He wanted to know when they were going up so he could come out and see them.

When someone asked if they shouldn't ask nearby Willow Run Airport if the lighted lanterns would interfere with flights, a fire fighter left the room and called the airport. He explained that he worked at Willow Run and called his coworkers. He reported he was told to call back during business hours to talk about it.

"Maybe I shouldn't have called," he said.

Attorney George Chedraue said he liked the plans for the celebration, but he was

concerned about the liability of the lighted lanterns, because there were houses not far from the bridge.

"I would be concerned with everything that goes up, because it has to come down ... There have been lawsuits on this issue..." Chedraue said.

"I get it and I know you're an attorney and your brain goes that way," said Councilwoman Kim Tindall, saying the council can't be afraid of getting sued over everything.

The council was assured that Chinese lanterns are used around the world for celebrations.

After getting the city's approval of the events planned for the celebration, McClinton said she will next ask Van Buren Township for its OK because the bridge is in the township.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the council:

- Approved closing High Street from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Memorial Day, May 28, for the eighth-annual Thunder Rolls in Belleville event, as requested by Kathie Steigerwald of Brown Family Center and David C. Brown Funeral Home, which sponsors the memorial event. A convoy of motorcycles on a ride to benefit veterans is also part of the activities;

- Approved submitting an S-2 grant application to the DEQ in an attempt to get up to \$1 million with a 10% match to clean and televise the city's sewer system, some parts of which are 60 years old. A part of the grant requires seeking a low-cost SRF loan from the state, or using other funding, to begin fixing the problems identified, which was estimated to be a 10-year program. Mayor Kerreen Conley said it essential to assess the integrity of the sewer pipes before an emergency, such as a sinkhole swallowing up a car, so the city can prioritize what needs fixing.

(continued on page 8)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

On Monday, Lou Kovach, with the help of his surveyor and a friend, put up a metal fence at the corner of his property at Bemis and Martinsville roads, the former site of Coy Kendall greenhouses. With the fence, Kovach is drawing a line in the sand with Van Buren Township officials, who are considering his parcel split request, while asking for an easement for a new water line.

VBT resident stymied in plan to fulfill promise to deceased friend

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Before he died, Homer Morris asked his friend and benefactor Lou Kovach to make sure to finish their project to split the Coy Kendall greenhouse property and to take care of Homer's wife Jean, "the best he can."

Kovach is trying to honor that promise, but, he said, Van Buren Township has put up roadblocks over the past decade. Kovach is asking the public, especially those who knew Homer and Jean and remembered their greenhouse, to help him with his mission.

Here's the story of how Kovach got on his mission.

Wellington "Bill" Coykendall and his sister Ina Belle Coykendall Baum started the greenhouse at the corner of Bemis and Martinsville roads in 1924, the outgrowth of daily trips to Detroit markets, according to the local history book, "Water Under the Bridge". Their grandfather Hiram Coykendall was an elected constable in

VBT from 1891 to 1895.

When Kovach was growing up on Burtrig Road, he remembers looking up to Homer Morris and Jean (Baum) Morris and admiring their work at the nearby greenhouse at the corner of Bemis and Martinsville roads. They were successful people and he wanted to grow up to be successful, too.

He considered Homer a second father and a mentor in his youth.

Lou Kovach grew up to be a techie, and very successful with more than two dozen patents to his credit. He said he was impressed that Homer eventually built a greenhouse with computerized temperature and humidity controls and automatic closing of windows instead of using cranks.

But in more recent years, the greenhouse, which had just begun wholesaling plants to Home Depot and Meijer, had a couple of crop failures through unfortunate accidents, when an employee used the wrong spray

(continued on page 3)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT parcel splits

(continued from page 1)

and killed all the plants. The deliveries to customers was disrupted, there were other problems and financial problems grew.

One day, Kovach visited and found Homer staring out the window at the greenhouse. Kovach remembered noticing that Homer had a new printer, one of the first that printed on fabric. Kovach recalled saying, "I hope you got the service agreement."

Homer said he couldn't afford to buy the agreement.

Then he poured out his problems to his friend. He said he had remortgaged his house for \$350,000 and put it all into the greenhouse and it failed. He figured the only way to recoup his loss was to tear down the greenhouse and sell the land, but he didn't have the money to tear it down.

If he lost the land over unpaid property taxes and the house over an unpaid mortgage, "Everything I have would be gone," he told Kovach.

"I'll help you," Kovach said, without a second thought.

They got a few price quotes on the job, with some as high as \$400,000. Kovach asked his friend of 40 years Tom Tinsley for advice and Tinsley suggested Waldo, who would do it for \$210,000.

"So, I loaned Homer the money and told him not to worry about it. We'll figure it out."

That was in 2005. Every day Homer would go to the site next door to his house and help Waldo with the demolition. Kovach said Homer had more life to him now that they had a plan for him to get back on his feet and get the house back for Jean.

"The day before it was done, [in 2006] Homer was on a bulldozer helping and he had a heart attack," Kovach recalled.

"I didn't realize it was the beginning of a crazy amount of back luck a person could have," Kovach said.

"I believe he actually died and came back a different person. Something happened to him," Kovach said.

At the time lots were selling for \$40,000 each in that area, so if the 9 acres or so was split, he could get his house back from the bank and pay back Kovach.

Homer tried to move forward with his project and talked with Bryce Kelley who helped him draw up a plan for the lot splits, Kovach said. Kelley was the director of planning and economic development at the time.

Kovach paid for a survey and paid the township for an application for Homer to get his lot splits.

"We thought we had Bryce Kelley's support," Kovach said, adding the surveyor drew a master plan based on what Bryce Kelley had designed. There were to be a number of sites they could sell for people to build upon, with a possible combination

VBT expects to deny Kovach's lot splits, drags feet on getting files

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On May 1, Louis Kovach gave Van Buren Township \$1,000 to have his lot split request of the former Coy Kendall greenhouse property considered by the Parcel Division Board.

On Friday, Linda Stevenson, Executive Assistant/Assessment Coordinator, said the Parcel Division Board is made up of DPW Director Tom McDonald, Planning and Economic Development Director Terry Carroll, and herself.

They will consider the splits, but she said the flag lots included are a problem.

She said the plan doesn't meet the lot split ordinance or, possibly, the Land Division Act.

She said actually Kovach should have been charged \$1,250, rather than the \$1,000, because the charge is \$250 per application review for each new lot.

Stevenson said, as of Friday, the Parcel Division Board had not met. She said it usually takes a week for a decision on a split.

When asked if the board will explain why it denied the split and how to get an approval, she said it would. But it would

with Homer's home site acreage, in case there were problems with setbacks.

"But, Homer wasn't the fighter he was before his heart attack," Kovach recalled. "Homer called Bryce Kelley every week and each time he was told next week, next week."

"When Bryce Kelley left, there was no tomorrow," Kovach recalled, referring to late 2008 after a new administration was elected to VBT office.

Kovach said they had been talking with Susan Ireland, as well, and she seemed to have an issue with the project, because of the flag lots.

"I never really wanted this land," Kovach said on Friday, but Homer urged him to make sure he finished the project and took care of Jean, "the best you can".

"Homer had some serious financial problems and couldn't pay the taxes," Kovach recalled, noting that he has a quarter of a million dollars now invested in the project.

Kovach said Homer wanted to die in his house and, "We were able to do that."

Six months after Homer's death the bank contacted Jean and said it was foreclosing.

"All the dominoes were falling," Kovach said.

After Homer's heart attack, Kovach realized that everything had been done in a gentleman's agreement, so they drew up a

cost again for the revised request.

Supervisor Paul White said lot splits go to the ZBA because of the flag lots and Kovach refused to go to the ZBA.

When questioned by the Independent, Supervisor White backed down and agreed that an issue can't go to the ZBA until it has first been turned down by the township and the township hadn't turned it down yet.

Stevenson said the township will probably turn it down. But, she said she has seen the ZBA approve splits that the township has denied.

Kovach claimed that Homer Morris had applied for the split in the past and paid a fee, but Stevenson knew nothing about it. Susan Ireland would have been in her position if Morris had asked for a split in past years.

The Independent asked to see Stevenson's file on the property and the building department's file on the property, but White did not authorize that, saying the Independent would have to file a Freedom of Information Act request, which it did on Friday, asking only to review the files, with no copies requested.

Finally, on Tuesday, the Independent was allowed to see the township's files on the greenhouse property. The drawings by Bryce Kelley, which Kovach said were a part of the record, were not included in the files.

mortgage between them.

Then there was a forfeiture notice on the property for non-payment of taxes, "So, I had to go to the county, step in and try to get my money back and help Jean. To finish the project."

Kovach said he paid the back taxes and now is the owner of record.

"I was involved from the beginning," he said. On May 1, he submitted the paperwork for the split request and paid \$1,000 for the township to consider the splits.

Kovach said there was no support from the township and he was told to take the project to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Kovach said the plan originally was put together by one of the township officials and now they were turning away from it.

"I don't know what damage this does to this community," Kovach said of the splits so people can buy lots in the country and build their dream homes. He isn't building a subdivision.

"I never wanted this land, but the county would have gotten it if I hadn't paid the taxes," Kovach.

"Hope, despair, hope, despair. It's such a sad ending. Homer tried to take care of everyone."

Kovach said he was recently amazed at the audacity of the township. After giving them such a hard time on the splits over several years, the township asked for his

cooperation in giving up an easement for a water project.

"I refused. I told them you must make this right and then I'll cooperate," Kovach said, adding he did not believe the new water line past his property was in the public interest because everyone along Bemis already is hooked into the Sumpter water line.

He said the county wouldn't allow the water line to be put in its right of way, so the township had to seek easements from property owners.

Last week, Kovach and his attorney John Day, and his neighbor Eric Long, met with Dave Nummer from the township's engineering consultant Wade Trim.

Kovach told Nummer when the property split is resolved he'll sign the easement. Kovach said Nummer wanted Kovach to sign the easement first and then he would look at helping with the split.

There was what Nummer perceived as a confrontation and he shut down the meeting, Kovach said.

On Monday, Kovach erected a 2 1/2 foot tall corner fence on the greenhouse property (with proper approval from the township) and is waiting to see if the water line excavation necessary at that corner to install a gate valve can be done without moving his fence.

"If the fence goes down, John Day already has the complaint ready to file," Kovach said.

Kovach said he was drawing a line in the sand with this fence.

Kovach said he offered to sign the easement if the township would pay the property taxes for two years, which amount to about \$20,000. The township wasn't interested and Kovach wasn't surprised.

Another problem he had with the township was that while Homer was sick the township continued to tax the vacant land as if the greenhouses were still there, running him out of funds.

"It's like a mission for me to fulfill Homer's wishes," Kovach said. "I hope the people of the community will help me."

Arts Council sets May 20 turkey dinner

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts will hold a "post Mother's Day" fund-raising dinner from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at Belleville's Masonic Temple.

The dinner will include turkey and stuffing with all the trimmings and a selection of chocolate desserts. Dinners are \$9 each for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

Dinners will be available "to go".

A Chinese Auction will also be held.

The monthly fund-raising dinners are to help fund BACA's planned new building on Main Street.

OPINIONS

Editorial

FEMA's new floodplain maps may affect library site

Some tri-community residents say a new library on the DNR property north of the Belleville Bridge would be a beautiful entryway to the City of Belleville.

Others disagree, saying a lakeside library would be beautiful, indeed, but on lakeside property in the city, to stay within a cultural center formed with the museum and upcoming arts center.

At Tuesday's library board meeting, Diane Madigan asked from the audience about the impact of the new FEMA floodplain maps, putting the DNR site in the floodplain. Board president Mary Jane Dawson said this information that the proposed library site is in the floodplain is new and, "We are going to wait to see how things shake out."

Madigan said the house next door to the DNR site, which has been considered for purchase, too, also appears to be in the flood zone, so that property would lose value and also need flood insurance. Something to consider, she said.

Meanwhile, the City of Belleville is free from floodplain designation, according to DPS Director Boc, who said FEMA delivered the bulky document on the flood plain a long time ago. The map on VBT's website shows a sliver of floodplain along the lake on Potter Drive and possible floodplain along Loza Lane. Otherwise, clear. VBT is still waiting for more information from FEMA, while Sumpter is moving right along, with six properties already removed from insurance requirements. The FEMA saga continues.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Colin Jordan is back on the job delivering mail to businesses and residences in downtown Belleville. He returned to his route as of May 1 and we are all very happy to see him again. He has finally, pretty-much healed from his motorcycle accident on April 12, 2011. He came back to work in August and then a few months later had to take time for more surgery.

You may have noticed the Van Buren Township police officers now are wearing "garrison" hats when they are on outside duty. I hear it's a new directive from Captain Greg Laurain. Romulus PD also wears garrison hats as part of the Class A uniform rules.

VBT Lt. Dennis Brooks was wearing a hat in the picture of the duckling rescue on our front page April 26.

I remember the late Eddie Womack, when he was Sumpter Police Chief, had his officers wear the garrison hats on duty. He said people respond with more respect to an officer that looks even taller with such a hat.

Michael Bess of Van Buren Township joined the Midland Police Department on May 1 and Midland City Hall was filled with people who came to witness Bess and two others become the city's newest police officers.

The City Council made a big fuss over the three and held a badge pinning ceremony, with Bess' mother doing the honors for him.

The Midland Daily News did a story on the event, which included details on the promotions of two other officers.

AND YOU BET TO WEAR THIS SUPER-MOM COSTUME
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Bess earned an associate degree from Schoolcraft College and graduated from the Wayne County Regional Police Academy in November. He saw Midland was hiring, so he applied. It is his first law enforcement job.

Bess is quoted as saying he is excited with his new job. "It's more community based. There's more serving the community than reacting to crime," he said.

On Channel 2 TV Friday and Saturday, the story was told of a very ill, 3-year-old Ypsilanti girl who wanted an iPad for her birthday. When her mother spent \$500 at the Van Buren Township Walmart to get it, the package contained only legal pads of paper. The store refused to refund the money to the mother, Ciera Billups. Members of the VBT police and fire departments immediately stepped up to get the iPad for little Lauren.

Officer Chris Valinsky and Fire Fighter John Henderson were among those shown on TV with the bed-bound child.

The TV station got many calls to help, but VBT took care of it first. After all the bad publicity, Walmart agreed to refund the mother's money for the iPad that turned out to be a box of paper.

TV 2 received complaints from other purchasers of iPads at Walmarts in Metro Detroit, but the others got refunds for their boxes of what turned out to be legal pads.

On Friday, Mark Pratt of Menlo Park Drive, Belleville, dropped by to show me a picture he took of a Mallard duck, this one sitting on her nest in the alley between Third and Fourth streets south of Main in downtown Belleville. I told him I was pretty much done with writing duck stories. He understood, but I couldn't resist just one more duck sighting.

On Friday, a Belleville couple was arrested in Knox County, KY after a routine traffic stop. In his report, the Kentucky State Trooper said the two, their three-year-old son, and another man all reeked of marijuana and seemed under the influence. There was a quantity of MJ and rolling papers in the car, he reported.

The couple, Doyle Crawford, 29, and his wife Amber, 27, were charged with marijuana possession and endangering the welfare of a child. They posted bond and the child was put into the custody of his grandmother.

Their passenger, Alan Reinhackel of Wayne faced the same charges, but was still in the detention center Friday because he allegedly was wanted for assault in Michigan.

According to the report on WYMT-TV, Doyle said the marijuana was for medicinal purposes.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

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Letters

We need help with senior graduation party

To the Editor:

I am a parent volunteer of the Belleville High School Senior Party Planning Committee. We need your support to have a safe place for the 380+ seniors to celebrate, have fun with entertainment, activities, food, games, and prizes. This is a once-in-a-lifetime memory that we, as a community, need to support.

So, I am calling on all businesses to help as well as community members and residents. We are in need of prizes and any size of monetary gifts. We have letters for those of you that need a tax write-off. The committee can either pick up your items or you can drop them off; just call 734-699-6994.

Canton Cinema has generously offered to give 25-50% of their sales to our senior party planning committee to help make this a memorable experience and you can help while enjoying a movie. Just come to Canton Cinema on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Buy a ticket, get some refreshments and sit back and watch your movie. THAT'S IT! How easy and fun is that?

For those of you that have already donated, I personally thank you. You are going to make this a fun annual tradition full of memories. The date this year is May 24. I am sure that the parents of the seniors are grateful, as well, since this is a safe place (BHS) for the seniors to have the time of their lives, as well as the safety of the public.

Kathy Duke, Sumpter Township

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Thunder Rolls in Belleville comes May 28

To the Editor and Community:

As Memorial Day approaches, please remember that Memorial Day is more than a day off from work where we can hold barbecues and shop for sales.

Memorial Day is a day in which we should remember our nation's valiant soldiers who, since the founding of this great nation, went in harm's way to protect our nation, our citizens and our way of life.

We owe these men and women a debt that we can never fully repay. It has been said that "Freedom is not free!"

This Memorial Day, May 28th, we invite all of you to come down to Belleville's Horizon Park to experience the 8th annual "Thunder Rolls in Belleville". At 2 p.m. in the afternoon a special service will be given in honor of all veterans. This tribute will be held at the Veteran's Memorial in Horizon Park, located off Belleville Lake on High Street.

During the service there will be a time in which the names of veterans who have died in the past year will be called out. *Please call us if you want to add your loved one's name.*

Preceding the service there is a scenic motorcycle run through parts of Van Buren, making its way to Belleville's memorial. Participants for the ride can register and line up starting at 11 a.m. in Wayne County Community College's front parking lot, 9555 Haggerty (exit 192 off of I-94 and then north on Haggerty).

The motorcycles will start out at 1 p.m., arriving at Horizon Park between 2 and 2:30 pm. *The service will begin once the bikes have arrived.*

There is a \$10 donation for riders and all riders are welcome. The money will benefit local veterans and their families.

Call 734-697-5090 or e-mail browngriefcenter@yahoo.com for more information.


The Brown Funeral Home and Brown Family Center are very proud to sponsor "Thunder Rolls in Belleville".

Kathie Steigerwald / Mary Martinez
David C. Brown Funeral Home
Belleville



"Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage."

--Anais Nin



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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

FEMA Flood Insurance petition now on line

To the Editor:

I have written a few letters already, trying to get people of Wayne County, especially my local residents, to come by my home and sign a petition to let the government know that we, as a whole, are tired of getting billed for everyone else's mistakes and messes that we just can't afford.

The more the government tries to find ways to line their pockets, charging us more nonsense fees, the more the middle class will get stretched out until there is no more to pull funds from.

I feel as though this is just another scam and I, personally, am getting tired of trying to stretch my dollar just to survive while others in the government have not even thought they could lose their house or how to feed their children.

I just can't see why they are doing this now. Foreclosure rate is at an all-time high and rising. With this flood insurance demand it will surely only rise. I am sure some families are using that \$150 a month to feed their children. Now they have to figure a way to feed their kids or pay flood insurance. Hmmm. Let's see. That's a difficult choice.

I have received a call from a resident who has directed me to a website that I submitted a petition. I am hoping I can reach more residents through this website. For those that cannot leave their home or it will just make it easier to sign this petition. The website is www.change.org and then just look up FEMA flood insurance. Please spread the word to whoever you would like to because I just have a feeling that Wayne County is not the only county that is going to be affected. This is just the beginning of something larger and I really don't want to just sit back and wait and see what hits us next.

So once again, www.change.org, or come by my home and sign the petition, 17500 Sumpter Road, Belleville. The petition will be left on my porch from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. providing no rain in the forecast.

Thank you in advance for your support. Let's make a stand and a statement.

Kathy Duke, Sumpter resident

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Obituaries



Virginia Irene Wall

VIRGINIA IRENE WALL

(May 30, 1920 – May 1, 2012)

Mrs. Virginia Irene Wall, 91, passed away on May 1, 2012 in Houghton Lake, MI. She was born on May 30, 1920, a daughter of Arl and Ruth Mitchell. In 1938 she married Bernard Arthur Wall in Indiana. Mr. Wall preceded her in death on October 31, 1972.

Virginia was a member of the Belleville United Methodist Church, Ford UAW and the Van Buren Senior Citizens. She enjoyed crocheting, sewing, knitting, ceramics, painting, cake decorating, quilting and macrame. She worked at Belleville High School and Edgemont School in the cafeteria before working at Ford Motor Company, retiring in 1982 after 22 years of service.

She is survived by her loving children, Bernard "Chum" (Janet) Wall of Romulus and Linda Traskos of Belleville. She was grandmother to five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Also survived by two sisters Doris (Don) Bluhm and Betty Charlesworth; brother-in-law Robert C. Wall; sister-in-law Esther M. Wall; and special daughter-in-law Irene B. Wall.

Virginia was preceded in death by her husband, a son Richard A. Wall on April 29, 2009, and brother-in-law Lee Charlesworth.

Funeral services were held on Monday, May 7, at 11 a.m. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville, (734) 697-9400, with Pastor Jim Walker officiating. Visitation was held on Sunday, May 6. Memorial contributions in Mrs. Wall's name are suggested to The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Michigan Chapter, 20300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076-4166 or Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, MI 48112-0854. www.hnfhhome.com



Paul Franklin Smith, II

PAUL FRANKLIN SMITH, II

(June 7, 1976 - April 29, 2012)

Paul Franklin Smith, II, 35, passed away at 3:30 p.m. April 29, 2012 at Sky Ridge Medical Center, Cleveland, TN.

He was born June 7, 1976 in Ann Arbor, the son of Stormy Smith of Belleville.

He is survived by his mother; Grandmother Shirley Schettler of Belleville; brother David Smith, niece Kayla and nephew Ryan; brother Jeremy Smith and Sandy; also Uncle William (Michele) Schettler; Aunt Sharlene Davis; Aunt Corinne (Mathew) Smith; Uncle Edward (Mae) Schettler; Uncle Martin (Dawn) Schettler; and many loving cousins and friends.

Paul worked for Denny's in Belleville for many years before transferring to Denny's in Tennessee.

The rites of cremation have taken place. A memorial will be held at the P.N.A. Hall at 45476 Harris Rd., Belleville, MI. Everyone is welcome at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12. Service is at 4 p.m.

JOHN W. ROCKWELL

(April 18, 1929 - April 22, 2012)

John W. Rockwell, 83, of Punta Gorda, FL, passed away Sunday, April 22, 2012, in Port Charlotte, FL. He was the only son of John and Ethel Rockwell of Romulus. He was a longtime Belleville resident and a retiree of Ford Motor Co.

He is survived by his spouse of 61 years, Jane (Bradshaw) Rockwell; children Brad (Marla) Rockwell of Alton, MO, and Jan (Don) Schrock of Hiawasse, GA; grandchildren Ashlee (Dorsten) Reynolds, Jacob Dorsten and Bruce Webster; great-grandchildren Abigail and Emma Reynolds, and also many friends.

Arrangements were by the MedCure donation program



Veronica Ruby Morris

VERONICA RUBY MORRIS

(February 23, 1926 - May 5, 2012)

Veronica Ruby Morris, age 86, of Belleville passed away May 5, 2012, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township, MI. She was born February 23, 1926 in Wayne, MI, to the late Michael and Margaret (Duma) Ruby.

Veronica was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Belleville, MI. She was a "Rosie The Riveter" who was devoted to her country, her husband and her family. She enjoyed playing cards with her friends.

Mrs. Morris was preceded in death by 1 brother and 4 sisters. She is survived by her loving husband, Rex Morris and her children, Sandy Armstrong and Peggy Weise, both of Belleville, MI, and Roxanne (Dan) Dildine of Brighton, MI; also survived by 6 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held at David C Brown Funeral Home in Belleville, MI on Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with a 12:30 p.m. Memorial service immediately following. Pastor Robert J. White of Grace Baptist Church will be officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Diabetes Association or American Cancer Society and would be appreciated by the family.

Please sign Veronica's on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Danielle Rose Bogardus

DANIELLE ROSE BOGARDUS

(May 10, 1975 - May 2, 2012)

Danielle Rose Bogardus, age 36, passed away on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 in Augusta, GA as the result of a car accident. Danielle is survived by two sons, Troy and Matthew; parents, Denise (Dennis) Schmidt, Robert (Noel) Bogardus; siblings Bryan, Kyle, Dena and Lee; grandparents, Robert (Ruth) Bogardus, Gerry Liedel and Pansy (Al) Persondek; in addition to many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, Doug Liedel. Cremation has taken place. A small private family service will be held at Hillside Cemetery in Belleville, MI.



LEONARD WHITEHEAD

Leonard Whitehead, 91, a longtime Sumpter Township resident, passed away Tuesday afternoon, May 8, 2012. He was the father of Elaine (Gene) Taylor. Arrangements have been entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, 734-697-4500.

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Obituaries



Frances Virginia Blaszak

FRANCES VIRGINIA BLASZAK

(April 12, 1918 - May 5, 2012)

Frances Virginia Blaszak, age 94 of Milan, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at Fostered Hearts, AFC in Milan. She was born on April 12, 1918 in Riverview, MI, daughter of Mary and Edward (Corevits) Reno.

Frances is survived by her children: Jerome (Mary Ann) Blaszak, James Blaszak C.S.C., Congregation of Holy Cross, Cascade, CO and Maria Blaszak Lehto, Fairborn, OH. She is also survived by four loving grandsons: Shane (Jamie) Lehto, John (Shelley) Blaszak, Andrew (Becky) Blaszak, all of Willis, MI, and Brian Lehto of Vancouver, B.C., also great-grandsons Ryan Lehto, Lance, Garek and Cooper Blaszak, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Virginia Frost, and her husband of 51 years Sylvester Blaszak.

Frances was a supervisor for Firestone before her marriage to Sylvester J. Blaszak on November 29, 1941. She prided herself on being both a homemaker and a farmer, and in later years, a caterer for numerous weddings and other social gatherings. Throughout the years, Frances contributed countless hours to her community, church, school, and organization projects and serving as election official for Augusta Township for several years. She was an active member of Polish American Congress and Polish League of American Veterans and served as Women's Vice President of PNA Lodge 2984. She was an active supporter of Comboni Missions (Verona Fathers), Monroe Catholic Central Women's Auxiliary, Congregation of Holy Cross, 4-H, and St. Anthony Scouts. In 1982, Frances was awarded the honor and title of the Polish National Alliance Woman of the Year. She was a member of St. Anthony's Women's Guild. Frances had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and The Rosary.

Visitation will be on Thursday 5-8 PM and Friday 2-8 PM with a 7:30 PM Rosary service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. A Funeral mass will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 11 AM at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Avenue, Belleville, with Father Thomas H. Cusick as celebrant. Interment will follow at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Frances' name may be made to St. Anthony Church, St. Anthony Boy Scout Troop or Cub Scout Pack 793, or to Arbor Hospice. Please sign Frances' on line guestbook and share a memory for her family to cherish at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

City Council

(continued from page 1)

"Right now ignorance is bliss," said DPS Director Keith Boc, adding, "When we see what's there, we may wonder why it didn't collapse";

- Approved a resolution for Wayne County Special Events Permits, which holds the county harmless, as required by Wayne County;

- Approved a resolution for the Wayne County Annual Pavement Restoration Permit, holding the county harmless, as required by Wayne County;

- Heard DPS Director Keith Boc say there is a third Wayne County resolution required and he will present that at the next regular meeting;

- Discussed council members' work on the \$2 million-plus FY 2012-13 budget now under consideration and reminded everyone of the first budget review session, which will be held at 6 p.m., Monday, May 14, with the second review session set for 6 p.m., Wednesday, May 16;

- Heard City Manager Kollmeyer report she had called Wayne County about the Skate Park, but her call has not been returned. Mayor Conley said she spoke with Commissioner Kevin MacNamara about the problems with the Skate Park and he said he was surprised to hear the city had issues and will look into it. Fire Chief Loranger said the last time he was out there, there were just bikes (no skateboards) and a whole section of the fence was down; and

- Approved accounts payable, with the following departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Birchler Arroyo, \$1,000 for work on the sign ordinance; to Jack Doheny \$623 for sweeper repair; and to Michigan Association of Planning, dues of \$625. In response to a question from the council, Police Chief Gene Taylor explained that the \$112.50 reflected the reimbursement for a damaged fingerprinting machine, caused by film makers who recently used the police department to shoot some scenes. "They really got into their acting and damaged the fingerprinting machine, but then paid for it," Chief Taylor said.

Ryan Richter earns BA degree at Hope College

Ryan Richter, son of the Rev. James and Sara Richter of Belleville, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in exercise science and political science on May 6 at Hope College commencement ceremonies.

Hope College is located in Holland, MI, and affiliated with the Reformed Church in America.

May Birthdays

May 8 – John Katona

May 11 – Ron Pyzik

Do you have a birthday in May? Does anyone you know have a May birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

BYC invites volunteers to help with second Lake Beautification session

The first 150 volunteers to register to help clean up the Belleville Lake shoreline on May 19, will get a custom, bright orange, Lake Beautification Project T-shirt.

At Monday's meeting of the Belleville City Council, Fire Chief Bryan Loranger said registration for volunteers will begin at 9 a.m. at the BYC property on North Liberty Street. Then someone will get up in a bucket at 9:45 a.m. to take a group photo of the expected large crowd of volunteers in their orange shirts.

Plans call for the teams and locations to be assigned and then crews will go out and clean up the shoreline from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Burgers and hot dogs will be served on the BYC property from 2 to 4 p.m., with all food, equipment, and shirts provided by BYC.

Last year's effort filled a large dumpster with collected debris, which included a sailboat, Loranger said. The 2011 project included painting over graffiti under the Belleville Bridge.



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Curves

Come celebrate National Curves Day promoting womens health May 17th from 8am to 7pm. Free food, games, prizes, fun for all. 1 day only discounts. Free Curves Circuit with Zumba class at 9 & 9:30am with demos throughout the day. Come see what else we have in store for you.

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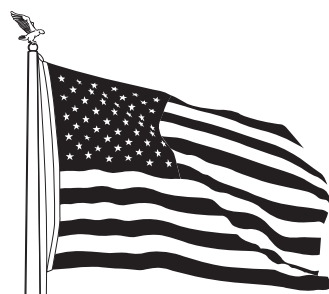
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More Letters

Viking Velocity: How the \$30,000 was spent

To the Editor:

As many of you may recall, last September the students of North Middle School raised nearly \$30,000 through a walkathon fundraiser named Viking Velocity. Due to

the overwhelming budget cuts that severely impacted school funding, the PTO set its first attempt at gaining some control of this issue as it affected the students at North.

The many modifications occurring throughout our district, including the uncertainties of next school year, made the distribution of the funds a little tricky.

We also had to take into consideration that our new Belleville High School would be obtaining new technical equipment and would be distributing some of their replaced equipment throughout the school district.

With that said, our plan to purchase new computers was postponed until we had a better idea of what NMS will obtain from the high school.

Likewise, therein lies the uncertainty of teacher placement for next year, so the PTO had to make decisions based on proposals that would directly affect the majority of the students vs. a single classroom. So, with a great degree of consideration, the PTO has allocated the funds and is very proud to reveal this information to our community. Here is the breakdown:

Eight commercial Elliptical machines and an XBOX Kinect were awarded to the athletic department. These machines allow for a low impact cardio workout that involves the arms, legs, and core musculature. The workouts are important in preventing or reducing the risk of heart disease while improving heart function, encouraging weight loss, burning body fat, improving the intake and flow of oxygen, improving lung function, lowering bad cholesterol, toning muscles, and providing the students with increased confidence and self esteem.

Fourteen sets of student response systems (commonly known as "clickers") were awarded for multiple classroom use, with the goal of eventually obtaining enough sets for the entire school. These systems are a "way of the future", a type of technology used to promote active learning. With clickers, students have an input device that allows them to express their views in complete anonymity, and the cumulative view of the class appears on a public screen. Each input device is numbered, however, so the instructor can download responses for recordkeeping after the class session ends. Research has shown that learning outcomes are much greater through the use of clickers than traditional lecture methods or class discussions.

To address the extracurricular portion of our promise, a motivational assembly will be held in the school gym on the morning of May 22, each grade addressed separately. Jim "Basketball" Jones has been

empowering kids for over 15 years and has conducted over 5,000 shows. His main focus is on character, effort, and listening, and his program allows kids to participate while learning about these important life skills.

It is considered by many as one of the best assemblies ever witnessed, and many schools request his return year after year!

You may visit his website at <jimbasketballjones.com>. Furthermore, Viking Velocity money has also supported after-school functions such as the Holiday Party in December, a sewing class, and a beading class. Also, the class that collected the most donations was awarded a breakfast.

The band program was awarded \$3,500 in lieu of their annual magazine fundraiser, as Viking Velocity was noted to be the only fundraiser for the school year. These funds were used for instrument repairs, concerts, music software, and for the replacement of non-repairable instruments.

The science department was awarded a magazine subscription, and replacement bulbs were purchased for projection equipment in the math department.

Finally, \$3,500 was saved as "seed money" for next year's walkathon in order to cover the expenses of t-shirts, printing needs, prizes, advertisements, etc.

The inconceivable success of the Viking Velocity fundraiser has sparked interest in other area communities, and we are so proud to announce that a Van Buren School was the first to attempt an event like this in Southeastern Michigan.

As noted last fall, we aspire to ultimately transform this event into a districtwide benefit while taking control of the disturbing educational cuts that we are facing.

The children of our community need to know that we care, and that complaining about a problem won't solve a problem, however exercising a solution carries with it the power of trying and the pride of success!

Therefore, South Middle School will be teaming up with North Middle School for our second annual walkathon in the 2012/2013 school year! The date has been set for Saturday, Oct. 20, with many details to follow, so stay tuned!

"We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided." -J.K. Rowling

Amy Quinn, Viking Velocity Chair

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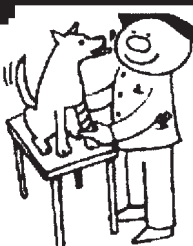
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Taking part in the Belleville Relay for Life fundraiser on Saturday as part of the Atchinson Ford Fighters were, from left in front, Deb Lazaroff and Daphne French and, in back, Amy Quinn and Andrea Rainey. The two-day event to raise money for the American Cancer Society was held at Quirk Park in Van Buren Township.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla tries to set world record at Horizon Park

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla based in Canton will try to break a world record in the number of people pictured together wearing life jackets on Saturday, May 19.

At Monday's regular meeting, the Belleville City Council approved the use of Horizon Park from 1 to 1:30 p.m. on that day for the event, which is called "Ready Set Wear it – Life Jacket World Record Day."

The event is a part of National Safe Boating Week, May 19-25, said Debra Yeager, auxiliary staff officer, in a memo to the council. She said the goal is to promote the different kinds of personal flotation devices available, and also to educate the public about life jackets and safe boating in general. Yeager said she also has been working with the Belleville library on a program.

The Canton Flotilla held a boat safety class at I-94 Marina last Saturday and they reported it was so crowded that people stood outside trying to hear.

They are looking for other locations in the Belleville area for boating safety classes, and Fire Chief Bryan Loranger offered the fire hall and Police Chief Gene Taylor suggested the South Middle School Cafeteria, if there was a large crowd expected.

The auxiliary representatives said the primary role of their group is boating safety and education classes and Belleville Lake is the third most dangerous area for boating in the State of Michigan (not including the Great Lakes).

They reported that of the 66 people losing their lives on the Great Lakes in 2010, 90% were not wearing life jackets.

In making the motion to approve the use of Horizon Park for the picture of people wearing life jackets, Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria said, "It's great for our community to have something like that."

Members of the audience in the council chambers said they are interested in beating the world record, now held by Canada, of 85 people wearing life jackets at the same time. Ohio is in second place with 66.

The auxiliary members said they already have the support of the marching band, the dive team, and other local groups.

Civil War genealogy workshop set June 21 at Belleville Area Museum

The Belleville Area Museum Civil War Sesquicentennial Series continues with a genealogy workshop, "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," at 6 p.m., Thursday, June 21.

Ticket price is \$3 for Historical Society members, seniors, and students and \$5 for nonmembers. Tickets include admission to the Civil War exhibit.

The workshop will be presented by Jana Sloan Broglin, director for the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Participants can learn tips for tracing Civil War ancestors by following four brothers through their experiences. Doors open at 5 p.m.

Limited seating is available. Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

The museum's spring/summer hours are

in effect: Tuesday 3-7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon to 4 p.m. Special exhibit admission is \$2 and free for members.

The 2012 Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Series is hosted by the

Belleville Area Museum and sponsored by the Belleville Area Historical Society and the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.



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Things to do in the Belleville area ...

- **Thursday, May 10** – BHS Freshman and Symphony Band Concerts, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- **Thursday, May 10** – Second day of the two-day production of "Dracula in Paradise" 7 p.m. at the South Middle School Cafeteria, \$4. Also, free SMS Art Show, 6-8:15 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 10** – Homegrown

Knowledge Series at library, 7 p.m., "How Detroit Saved the World: The Willow Run Story" with Randy Hotton of the Yankee Air Force Museum. Free. Hotton will explain how world events led to the decision to involve the auto industry in the construction of airplanes for WWII and ultimately to build the Willow Run Bomber Plant.

• **Saturday, May 12** – Letter Carriers Food Drive. Put some canned and packaged food in a bag out by your mailbox for your letter carrier to pick up to feed the hungry

in the Belleville area.

• **Saturday, May 12** – Drive-in Dog Clinic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building, 46425 Tyler Road, behind township hall. Vaccinations (\$16, rabies; \$28, distemper) and dog licenses (\$5/\$2.50) for township dogs, 699-8903.

• **Saturday, May 12** – Belleville Area Council for the Arts presents "A Hill of Magic Beans, or Here's Looking at You, Jack," a children's comedy at 3 and 7 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Tickets \$5.

• **Saturday, May 12** – James Lee will teach Square Foot Gardening from 9 a.m. to noon at Van Buren Park. Cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, pay on day of class. Register at www.teachmesfg.com or at the VBT Recreation Dept. Information, 734-699-8921.

• **Friday, May 18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** – Annual Rummage Sale at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville. Donations may be dropped off at the gym doors beginning

May 7. 699-6817

• **Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 18, 19, 20** – St. Stephen Catholic Church's Annual Spring Polish Festival at 18800 Huron River Drive in New Boston. Plenty of Polish foods, polka dancing, and live bands. Also, carnival rides, bingo, Vegas room, and men's softball tournament. (734) 753-5268

• **Saturday, May 19** – Volunteers are needed to place American Flags on the graves of veterans buried at Belleville's Hillside Cemetery, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (Note: Volunteers often arrive early, but come whenever you can.)

• **Saturday, May 19** – Volunteers are needed for the BYC Lake Beautification Project, with registration at 9 a.m. at the BYC property on N. Liberty St. Group photo at 9:45 a.m., then teams and locations assigned to clean up the lake shore. First 150 volunteers get special, orange T-shirts. Burgers and hot dogs provided by BYC from 2-4 p.m. after the clean-up.

• **Saturday, May 19** – U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla is seeking to set a world record by having a large number of people wearing life jackets for a photograph at 1 p.m. at Horizon Park. More information at: www.ReadySetWearIt.com

• **Sunday, May 20** – Belleville Area Council for the Arts fund-raising dinner at the Masonic Temple, 1-5 p.m. Turkey and stuffing with chocolate desserts. Dinners are \$9 each for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under.

• **Sunday, May 20** – BHS National Honor Society and Distinguished Graduate Inductions, 2 p.m., Auditorium.

• **Sunday, May 20** – Sunday afternoon tea at Trinity Episcopal Church, 11575 Belleville Rd., with Mary Todd Lincoln, 3-5 p.m. Donation \$5. Games, prizes, and President Lincoln's favorite finger foods and desserts.

Upcoming Meetings

• **Thursday, May 10** – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, tentative, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• **Monday, May 14** – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council first review session of budget, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Rawsonville Elementary School

• **Tuesday, May 15** – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.

• **Wednesday, May 16** – South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council second review session of budget, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville DDA, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• **Monday, May 21** – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The award-winning, mobile branch of the Public Service Credit Union paid a visit to Sumpter Township on May 2. From left are PSCU Sumpter Branch Manager Mary Foster, PSCU Vice President of Growth and Development Rob Mercier; Sumpter Treasurer John Morgan, Sumpter Supervisor Johnny Vawters, Sumpter Deputy Supervisor Craig Moody, Sumpter Clerk Clarence Hoffmann and, in back, Laura Saches, manager of the mobile branch. This mobile branch will be in the Country Fest Parade in Sumpter on May 26 and in the Strawberry Festival Parade in Belleville on June 16.

Award-winning PSCU mobile branch coming to Sumpter, Belleville

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The award-winning mobile branch of the Public Service Credit Union is adding Sumpter Township and Belleville to its schedule of appearances.

Mobile Branch Manager Laura Saches said her brightly decorated vehicle will be in the Sumpter Country Fest parade on May 26 and the Belleville Strawberry Festival parade on June 16.

The full-service mobile branch has also made appearances at the Romulus Festival of Lights, Pumpkin Fest, Dream Cruise, Gold Cup Hydro Race 2011, and Eastern Market.

The eye-catching vehicle is covered in a skin featuring larger-than-life pictures of the credit union's employees and their children.

The branch also has a regular schedule at several senior living facilities after Social Security direct deposits arrive in senior accounts, so the seniors can get cash for spending money or just check on their balances. There is an ATM and a teller's window on a little porch at the side of the branch.

The mobile branch also visits retirement residences a few times a month to relieve the stresses caused by a need for transportation by seniors and their caregivers.

The mobile branch also parks at specific businesses throughout Metro Detroit and has added regular stops at Detroit Public Works, Adult Well-Being Services, Wayne County Sheriff's Administration Office, and Wyandotte Waste Treatment.

The PSCU mobile branch also was asked to partner with Adult Well-Being locations to educate their clients about financial

responsibility. They help people open up savings, checking and even Save to Win CDs.

Those who know of any events that would be enhanced by the mobile branch services are asked to contact them at 734-641-8400 and ask for the mobile branch. They are also available by email at www.pscuow.com.

Branch manager Saches asks people to Friend them on Facebook to find out where they will be putting the branch in "park."

"If you see us on the road, feel free to give us a wave or the honk of your car horn," Saches said.

The mobile branch won the top-place Diamond Award for Outdoor Marketing/Media in a nationwide competition among credit unions from CUNA Marketing.

PSCU has a regular branch in Sumpter Township at the Sumpter Community Center with Mary Foster as branch manager.



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Letter Carriers working to 'Stamp Out Hunger' in Belleville community

Letters carriers at the Belleville Post Office will work to "Stamp Out Hunger" on Saturday, May 12, when the annual food drive celebrates its 20th year.

On that day, letter carriers will collect non-perishable food donations from homes as they deliver mail along their routes.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Food Drive, held in conjunction with the Postal Service, is the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

This joint effort will help feed families in all 50 states. Last year, 70.4 million pounds of food was collected across the country, resulting in more than 1 billion pounds of food collected since the drive began 20 years ago.

Closer to home, letter carriers at the Belleville Post Office are getting ready for this year's event and hoping to exceed last year's total of 5,500 pounds of food collected.

"With the commitment of our employees and the support of community, we're excited to participate in this year's food drive," said Belleville Postmaster Tim Inman.

"We're asking everyone throughout the community to help us make this the most successful food drive in its 20-year history. Leaving a donation is as simple as leaving a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox."

To participate in the 20th Stamp Out Hunger food drive, people are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox prior to the time of regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 12. Belleville letter carriers will collect these food donations as they deliver the mail and take them to the local food bank.

"Many families are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table during these challenging economic times," said Inman. "Food banks, pantries and shelters need our help as more families count on them for support."

The Belleville letter carriers will collaborate with food pantries at the First United Methodist Church of Belleville, St. Anthony's Parish of Belleville and The Salvation Army Plymouth Corps to ensure that families and individuals have food on the table over the coming months.

The items donated May 12 will be sorted by volunteers at the First United Methodist Church on Monday and Tuesday, May 16 and 17.

Tina DeBord of the Belleville Post Office is heading up the food drive this year. Sandy Askew (First United Methodist Church of Belleville) and Laurie Aren (The Salvation Army) are helping with media promotion and volunteers to support the community project.

Partners of this year's drive are the Campbell Soup Company, Feeding

America, United Way, AFL-CIO, Valpak, AARP, Uncle Bob's Self Storage, and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association.

More Letters

Classic cars invited to Victory Park on June 2

To the Editor:

Belleville Area Council for the Arts would like to invite owners of classic cars to join us on Saturday, June 2, 2012 starting at noon until 5pm for the Second Annual Car Show and Tea in the Park to share their car(s) for viewing while we ooh and aah as we sip our tea and eat our scones and other tea type treats.

If you are interested in bringing a car to show, please contact Kay Atkins at 734 697-9376 as soon as possible. The tea is open to the public and the food fare is available for \$5 per person. There is no admission to the car show. Hope to see you there.

Kay Atkins, Belleville Area Council for the Arts

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Ted A. Zaroff, III

Ted A. Zaroff, III, graduates from U of M with highest honors

Sumpter Township resident and St. Anthony parishioner Ted A. Zaroff III graduated *Summa Cum Laude* (highest honors) from the University of Michigan's College of Engineering with a degree in chemical engineering. He was on the university's Dean's List for his entire college career, and has been admitted to U of M's Ph.D. program in Chemical Engineering with a focus on biological engineering.

A graduate of Tyler Elementary School's Gifted and Talented program, Ted attended Huron Valley Catholic School for middle school, and graduated with honors from Father Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor. He is a member of Phi Alpha Kappa, a Christian fraternity at U of M.

Ted sings bass with the award-winning U of M Men's Glee Club, which has toured the United States and Cuba, and is currently touring China with them. He also enjoys musical theater and performs each summer with the Father Gabriel Richard Dramalums. This summer he will appear in "Legally Blonde – The Musical."

Ted's proud parents are Ruthann and Ted Zaroff, Jr.

Curves International giving away one million, 30-day memberships

By Bob Mytych

Independent Sports Editor

For one week only, Curves across the country will be giving away 1 million, 30-day memberships and the Curves location in Belleville in the Davenport Plaza will give one away to any non-member who visits the club during regular hours throughout the National Women's Health Week, May 13-19.

This annual awareness week, coordinated by the US Department of Health & Human Services on Women's Health begins each year on Mother's Day (May 13, this year) and brings together communities, businesses, government, health organizations, and other groups in an effort to promote women's health. Curves International has teamed up with OWH to help promote National Women's Health Week and to provide health and wellness programs and materials for women throughout the country.

Curves of Belleville owner Robin Gragg and staff will hold an open house event all next week to encourage interested women to check out the club, pick up free health information from Curves and OWH, ask questions, get a free assessment and take advantage of the 1 million 30-day membership offer.

Visitors may also sign up to attend a special program on National Curves Day on Thursday, May 17, featuring massages, from health experts and other fun activities designed to raise awareness of small, practical steps women can take to get healthy. To learn more, call (734) 697-2000.

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	2	5
	3	5
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	6	10
	7	5
	8	5
Huron High School	9	5
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Main Street Flowers in downtown Belleville is your one-stop shop for prom corsages and boutonnieres and right now 5% of all prom sales will be donated to the 2012 Belleville High School Senior Party. Don't forget Mom on Mother's Day. It's this Sunday, May 13. Main Street Flowers has a great variety of flowers and gifts -- just what Mom's love. Call **(734) 697-7400**.

Mother's Day Brunch will take place this Sunday at the **Bayou Grill**, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring made-to-order omelets, waffles, biscuits, sausage gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, fried chicken, catfish, salad bar, and fruit tray. Cost is \$9.99 for adults, \$4.99 for children 10 and under. Call **(734) 697-2300**.

The **Belleville Charhouse** will offer their **Mother's Day Brunch** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring French toast bake, Eggs Benedict, omelets and waffles, corned beef hash, bacon sausage, hash browns, salads, vegetable blends, roasted turkey, sliced ham, prime rib, and assorted desserts. Cost is \$12.95 per person. Reservations can be made at **(734) 699-9959**.

Hidalgo's Mexican Restaurant in the Davenport Plaza is offering Mom the choice of free fried ice cream or sweet tamale on her special day. Call **(734) 697-3271**.

If you're traveling around town this Sunday and you'd like to capture a special moment with Mom, then stop at the gazebo at Victory Park, from noon to 5 p.m. where **Angela Bowers Photography** will be on the set taking group photos. For just \$10 you'll get up to 10 edited photos on a disk by mail. The mini shoot will take 10 minutes. The catch is that a Mom or Grandma must be in each photograph and you may include up to 10 people in each shot. To learn more call Angela at **(734) 788-0968**.

Banas Lumber & Hardware in nearby Maybee, MI will hold an **I Love You Mom 2-Day Sale** this weekend, featuring great deals on live plants, hanging baskets, hardwood mulch, patio sets, fountains, and more. Get a #20 propane refill for just \$10 with their ad coupon in today's paper. They're located at 8771 Ida-Maybee Road. Call **(734) 587-8615**.

Paula's Home Cookin' has closed for a little remodeling and will be reopening next

week with Paula's son **Rodney Herald** taking over with a new name -- the **Hen House**. Herald said he will be offering the best breakfast menu around. All the best to Paula in her retirement.

The **Pampered Lady Boutique** in the Belle Plaza on Sumpter Road features women's clothing and accessories and consignment items you no longer wear or need. Right now save 10% off with their ad in today's paper. They're now accepting spring and summer clothing items, too. They're open Monday, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m., and closed Sunday. Call **(734) 325-7357**.

Doug Dalton Auctioneer of Belleville revs up for another estate antique auction May 16-17 at the **Romulus Progressive Hall** on Ozga Road near 5-Points. A huge collection of autographed movie star and personality photographs, letters, glossies, and more will get underway next Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m. Thursday evening's program will start at 5 p.m. and feature an antique quilt collection dating back to 1880-1940. At 6 p.m., the auction will include a large pottery collection by Van Briggie, antique furniture, fine art, paintings, china, glassware, and more.

Previews get underway at 4 p.m. both days. The 2-day auction will be the last indoor auction until fall. For a more detailed description and photos visit **www.dougdaltonauctioneer.com**.

Doug Dalton has over 35 years in the trade with 25 years presiding over 2,000 auctions in his career covering a million items and raising over \$3 million for organizations including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Detroit Rotary. Doug is also a certified appraiser of fine arts and antiques and chairs and will preside over the antiques portion of **Artaffair on Main**, the 2-day fine art fair coming to Main Street July 28-29. His website features neat photographs of Doug in the early days of his career. Cool.

The *Independent* has expanded our latest advertising promotion featuring free color. We call it our **Show Your Stripes** promotion. Now thru July 5, if you double the size of your display ad (or larger) for 4 weeks or more, you'll get free color. If you're not a current advertiser, but thinking about it, simply advertise in Belleville's real hometown newspaper for 2 months in color and get 1 month of color for free. Call me for the details at **(734) 699-9020**.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Use of Community Development Block Grant Funds

On Tuesday June 5, 2012 in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Charter Township of Van Buren will hold a public hearing on the reprogramming of portions of the Township's FY2008 and FY2009 Community Development Block funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The funding amounts proposed for reprogramming are: FY 2008 -\$41,495.00; FY 2009 - \$48,792.00; FY 2010 - \$97,300. The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities that further national objectives. Those objectives are:

- Assist low and moderate income persons
- Address slum and blight conditions
- Meet a particular urgent community development need

Some past projects in Van Buren Township have included removal of ADA barriers in public facilities, senior citizen programs, youth programs, planning and design of community areas, demolition of unsafe structures, housing rehabilitation, and administration. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday June 5, 2012.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance if requesting accommodations.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: 5/10/12

WANTED HOMES THAT NEED ROOFING™

A select number of homeowners in **Belleville** and the surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to have a lifetime **Erie Metal Roofing System** installed on their home at a reasonable cost.

Call today to see if you qualify. Not only will you receive the best price possible, but we will give you access to no money down bank financing with very attractive rates and terms.

An **Erie Metal Roof** will keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

An **Erie Metal Roofing System** will provide your home with unsurpassed “**Beauty and Lasting Protection**”!

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE.
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Keith Dudek : Owner
11681 Rawsonville
Belleville, MI 48111

Office: (734) 461-6165
Cell: (734) 730-9733

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES - MAY 1, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Ostrowski. Absent: Trustee Partridge. Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, Engineer Nummer, Secretary Cline and an audience of thirty-seven (37).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as amended. To remove New Business Item #5 "Consider approval of the bid from Gen Power Products, Inc. of Wixom, Michigan to perform routine maintenance and repairs on sixteen (16) Township back-up power generators at various locations." from the agenda. Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Budd moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes April 16, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 17, 2012.] as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Gene Taylor gave a presentation on American Pride Project with a goal to purchase flags to be flown on June 14th Flag Day at all homes and businesses. Residents can show support by purchasing American Flags and bumper stickers as fundraiser for the American Pride Project. For more information contact Chief Taylor at Belleville Police Department, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111, telephone number 734-699-2710.

John Delaney requested a point of order regarding the previous request by a member of the audience to discuss the minutes listed under the Consent Agenda. Supervisor White stated comments can be made during the Non-Agenda portion of the meeting.

An audience member requested all American Flags be flown according to Federal Flag Code. Supervisor White read a letter from The University of Michigan Athletic Department thanking the Board for getting the emergency sewer line repair work done and further thanked Director MacDonald for handling this situation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Township posting of signs enforcing Van Buren Township General Code of Ordinance, Chapter 74, Section 74-54 Control of fishing, swimming and loitering and the signs to be placed to state "No fishing, swimming and loitering" at the west side of the Quirk Road/Belleville Road to the bridge; the east side of Belleville Road from the bridge; and the north and south sides of Denton Road from the bridge. Carried.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve Resolution 2012-10 DTE Energy Smart Meter Moratorium as presented with the exception of the next to the last paragraph to read "Be it further resolved, that the Van Buren Board of Trustees imposes a moratorium prohibiting smart meter installation within the township boundary lines until the MPSC completes its investigation and this matter is finally determined by an order and/or final court order". Treasurer Budd withdrew her support of the motion. Trustee Jahr withdrew his motion.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2012-10 DTE Energy Smart Meter Moratorium as presented and recommended by the attorney. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Ostrowski, Hart, Budd, Wright and White. Nays: Jahr. Absent: Partridge (excused). Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve Resolution 2012-11 the revocation of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate 2009-036 issued to Mariba Auto, LLC. Carried.

Wright moved, Hart seconded to grant special land use approval to McDonald's for a drive-in and drive-through restaurant proposed at 10760 Belleville Road including the recommendation letter from McKenna dated April 9, 2012 referencing the cross access easement and not including the sign language. Carried.

Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the proposal from Wade Trim to develop an update to the Township Water Distribution System Master Plan in the amount of \$27,400. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Wright moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the May 1, 2012 voucher list. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd announced the Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind township hall. Also, Water and Sewer payments can be paid online by a charge card (MasterCard, Discover or American Express), however the resident will be charged a three percent handling fee which will go directly to the charge card company.

Director Wright announced the following: Relay for Life a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society will be held on Saturday, May 5th and Sunday May 6th at Quirk Park. On Friday, May 18th the annual Mother and Son Bowl will be held at Lodge Lanes. Get-Fit Friday Family Fun Night will be held on Friday, May 25th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:09 p.m. to 10:02 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Smart meters; Democratic caucus on May 5th; Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); Robert Rules of Order, Board Minutes; Board Resolutions; Board Agenda; Open Meeting Act; Resolution for DTE Smart Meters Moratorium; Van Buren Township welcome packets; Planning and Economic Development Services Department; electrical inspector position; water for home at the failed PRD in Victoria Park Estates Condominiums; Hoosier/Visteon Co-Generation project special use approval; Visteon Master plan and Office Technology District Ordinance; Township Ordinances; list of non-profit organization in the township; Planning Commission meeting on May 9th for final site approval on the Hoosier/Visteon Co-Generation project; invitation to Willow Run Tea Party meeting at Big Sky Diner on Friday evenings; Public Safety; May is Motorcycle and Women Motorcycle awareness month; personnel investigation; outcome of accusation against a police officer; blended rate employees.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to adjourn at 10:02 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Paul D. White, Township Supervisor
Publish: 05-10-12

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. . . At the Independent
699-9020**



Come join our Community Garden


At the
Belleville Presbyterian Church

25 plots available for planting
Each plot 12' x 12' for \$15


Financial assistance available for those who meet certain qualifications.
Applications can be picked up at the church office or printed off our website.

Go to www.bellevillepresbyterian.org
Phone (734) 697-8687





City of Belleville Public Notice



Request for Proposals MUNICIPAL AUDITING SERVICES

The City of Belleville is accepting proposals for Municipal Auditing Services until

4:00 P.M. on Monday, May 21, 2012


Proposals will be accepted for consideration if received by the City Clerk's office no later than 4:00 P.M. on Monday, May 21, 2012.

Respondents will submit six (6) copies of the proposal. A brief oral presentation of the proposal may be requested. The intent of this oral presentation will be to provide your firm an opportunity to clarify the proposal and assure a mutual understanding.


Proposal must be submitted together in one sealed envelope marked "Municipal Auditing Services", and addressed to

Diana J. Kollmeyer, City Manager
6 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: May 10, 2012



City of Belleville Public Notice



Request for Proposals MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING SERVICES

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Diana J. Kollmeyer, City Manager
6 Main Street
Belleville, MI 48111

Publish: May 10, 2012

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

FREE

CHERYL SHERMAN - North Shore Dr. YOU'VE Won a dozen free roses. Pick them up at Main St. Flower's downtown, Belleville. www.mainstreetflowers.com or (734) 697-7400

TFN

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS for needy families. You pick up. Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Belleville Church of God. 45170 Hull Rd. behind Fire Station. (734) 697-0927

5/10

(3) KITTENS TO GOOD HOME. Variety colors, playful, eats soft & hard food, litter trained. (734) 699-0636

5/24

FOUND

YOUNG ALL BLACK CAT. Vicinity of Hannan Rd. & S.I-94 Service Dr. (734) 846-6411

5/10

THE BELLEVILLE INDEPENDENT NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS!

(Minimum \$5 Purchase, Classified Ads Excluded)



Notice to Advertisers:

The Belleville-Area Independent will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The Independent's liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the Independent be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that on 05/15/12 at 9:00 a.m., or after, the contents of the following storage units will be sold by competitive bidding at:

U-Lock-It Self Storage LLC
6130 Rawsonville Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111
(734) 482-1502

SPACE #J-14, Mary Gilliam-8 boxes, 2 pictures, 1 floor lamp, suitcase, fiber optic Christmas tree, 4 plastic totes, bathtub spa, copier, misc. items.

publish: May 10, 2012

MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

SERIOUSLY?

2 bed/1 bath home with over 800sf for only \$599*/mo.? Yes! All appliances including washer, dryer, a/c, shed and deck.

Located at Lakeview in Ypsilanti with incredible amenities. Reserve this home today!

888-205-6379
www.4lakeview.com

*WAC. EHO. Financed: \$11,204 @ 10.5% APR, 60 months. Includes \$317 site rent/mo. in 1st year. Financing arranged through Sun Home Services, Inc. NMLS # 33675 Expires 4/30/12

FOR RENT

BELLEVILLE LAKE - West End Boat Slip. Available for this season. (734) 834-2877

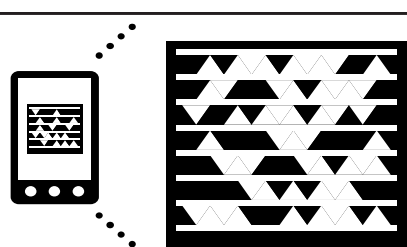
TFN

LARGE 2 BR. APT. \$699/mo plus security. Includes stove, refrigerator, W&D, dishwasher. Pets Welcome. (734) 796-3033

5/24

3 BR., 2 BATH Tri-Level House on 3 acres. Appliances & Riding Lawn mower. \$1000/mo. Plus security & utilities. (734) 755-2173

5/24



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HOUSE FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE in Belleville 6437 Denton Rd. 3 BR. 1 bath Single Family home/fixer upper. Owner financing or cash discount. \$750 down, \$370/mo. (803) 978-1540 or (803) 403-9555.

5/17

HOUSE FOR SALE

RAWSONVILLE WOODS HANDYMAN BLOWOUT!

HOMES FOR \$1!
Many to Choose.
Available Now.
Call Raymond!!!
Bankruptcy, Foreclosures,
and Bad Credit OK!
Accepting All Applications!
734-461-6700

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2 bed/1 bath home with over 800sf for only \$599*/mo.? Yes! All appliances including washer, dryer, a/c, shed and deck. Located at Lakeview in Ypsilanti with incredible amenities. Reserve this home today!

888-205-6379
www.4lakeview.com

*WAC. EHO. Financed: \$11,204 @ 10.5% APR, 60 months. Includes \$317 site rent/mo. in 1st year. Financing arranged through Sun Home Services, Inc. NMLS # 33675 Expires 4/30/12

ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

\$1000 resident referral when, if they buy, from Franklin Homes!



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Franklin Homes at Van Buren Estates
16800 Lohr Rd., Belleville

Looking for a homes? Cheaper than renting? We can help with financing?

Starting May 1, 2012

No move in fees Plus \$100.00 off your monthly site fee for the first 12 months.

A \$2215.00 value

Homes are available and inventory is moving fast. Call today to set up an appointment.

Refer a buyer to Franklin Homes and receive \$500.00 after they close on their home.

Contact Belinda 734-699-7700
Email at: blawson@franklinhome.com
Visit us at: www.franklinhomesales.com/bm

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DIRECT CARE ASSISTANT

Feel good about the work that you do. Support persons we serve in residential settings. Country home. Training provided. \$8.00 total per hr. plus good benefits.

Fax to 734-753-5194 New Boston
Visit us at www.Quest365.org

HELP WANTED

WAITRESSES WANTED & EXPERIENCED LINE COOKS
Apply in Person
Tin Pan Restaurant
19350 Sumpter Rd.
(Next to Sumpter Ace Hardware)

Child Care Work Opportunity

Now hiring for a part/full time position for a child care assistant. Must have experience working with different age groups of children. The staff we hire are a part of building a bright future for children! Only individuals that are: the best at showing kindness, patience, organization, flexibility, creativeness, self motivation and more need apply. Please call **697-2985**, ask for Tammy. *To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. - Ephesians 3:19*

PART TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT NEEDED:

Local company looking for an experienced office assistant with knowledge in community relations and sales. Must have good computer skills, good people skills and scheduling flexibility. To apply please send your resume to: **apply1at@comcast.net**

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800

TFN

PRO HARDWARE, BELLEVILLE has opening for part time salesclerk. Some evenings/weekends. Experience in home repair a plus. Call Mike (734) 945-2409

TFN

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699-9020

HELP WANTED

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE

May 19-20 • 9am-5pm

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HOME COMMUNITY
8330 N. Brookston
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Willis, MI**

FLEA MARKET IN DEPOT TOWN
starts May 20th at 8:30 a.m. & every
Sunday through-out the summer. For
information call (734) 340-4241 5/24

MOTHER'S DAY WEEK-END. 41500
Bemis Rd. May 10-11, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
May 12, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Everything from
A - Z. 5/10

9501 MADISON DR. in Charter Club
Estates. May 11-12, 9 a.m. - ?. Lots of
Household items, Clothing, Living room
& Patio furn., misc. No Early Sales. 5/10

YARD SALE - 25813 KARR RD.
between Willow & Arkona Rds. May
11-12, 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Accessories,
Clothes, Houseware & Big variety of
everything. 5/10

48501 W. HURON RIVER DR. 1.5
miles E. of Rawsonville Rd. May 10-
12, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tools, Household.
Down-sizing. 5/10

FOR SALE

1978 MARK TWAIN BOWRIDER
140 I.O. Mer Cruiser w/ trailer. Good
condition. \$1500 (586) 441-8786 after
5 p.m. 5/24

1979 DODGE MOTOR HOME w/ A.C.
440 V-8, 68K. Runs great. Everything
works. \$1250 (586) 441-8786 after
5 p.m. 5/24

DUTCHMAN CAMPER. 17'x25', sleeps
6. Retractable awning. Like new, one
family owned. \$5000 (734) 697-7805 5/10

SONY CONSOLE; VCR, 5 Disc. C.D.,
Radio with speakers. Excellent Condition.
\$50 (734) 697-7805 5/10

PARTING OUT FORD 801, 172 CI
Diesel tractor. SOS Trans., \$950 for
all. 7.50x16.5 foam filled tires, \$250.
(734) 740-0557 5/10

1962 FORD 901 TRACTOR, WD front,
rebuilt 172 CI, 50 h.p., SOS Trans., New
battery, Tires VGC, Runs Great. \$2,900
(734) 740-0557 Dave 5/10

FOR SALE

H.P. INK CARTRIDGES. # 11
Color, # 14 Combo pack. \$50 both.
(734) 620-9152 5/10

1988 LARSON LAZER 18.6 Open Bow
1/0, 130 h.p., OMC engine w/trailer.
Full canvas. \$6,000 or Make Offer.
(734) 461-0359 5/10

1980 17.5' STINGRAY BOAT. Open
bow, I/O, 120 hp., '91 trailer. Needs
battery and ready to go. Must Sell!
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BEAUTIFUL PORCELAIN DOLLS
with certificates. Large collection to
choose from. If interested call Jean.
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PROM DRESSES - GOOD Condition.
Size 13/14. (2 - Blue tones) (1 - Mint
Green) \$25 each. (734) 728-0821 5/17

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Thousands off Factory Direct Pricing Now
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1999 DODGE DAKOTA SPORT Pick-
Up. V6, Auto., A/C, 25,000 miles. \$5300
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Tennessee Walking Horse Mares. \$1,000
each or \$1600 for the pair. Also 2 horse
trailer, new floor, mats, lights & tires.
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WANTED: JUNK CARS

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useable stoves, refrigerators, washers
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WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS
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Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS
of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take
to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at
Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

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Jobs too LARGE - NO JOB too
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LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734)
765-9224 TFN

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COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
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up to 3 acres. SPRING CLEAN UP
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Gerry Gentz
Willis, MI **734-461-0158**

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We are the answer! We will turn
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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, April 29:
0036 – assault & battery, 48551 Denton Rd.
0314 – assault & battery, Michigan/Denton
0557 – breaking & entering, 43500 Forestdale Dr.
1211 – intimidation threat, 45679 Ecorse Rd.
1254 – holdup alarm, 17127 Lohr Rd.
1354 – disturbance, 11875 Quirk Rd., Girlstown
1556 – fraud, 46425 Tyler
1606 – malicious destruction of property, Jeremy/Leon
1732 – missing person, 49903 Martz Rd.
1743 – suspicious person, 51227 Old Michigan Rd.
1806 – ATV/ORV complaint, Maurice/Rogers
1811 – assault & battery, 44038 Burtrig
1850 – hospice, 13678 Country Walk Blvd.
2002 – juvenile complaint, 10850 Belleville
2217 – disturbance, 11623 Meadows Cir.

Monday, April 30:
0823 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Denton
0921 – private property accident, 45501 S. I-94 Service Dr.
0941 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.
1208 – disorderly conduct, 47150 Lauren Ct.
1234 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 11675 Meadows Ln.
1250 – larceny, 9700 Belleville Rd.
1357 – assault & battery, 591 W. Columbia Ave.
1511 – fraud, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1638 – loitering, 9244 Parkwood Dr.
1749 – suicide or attempt, 224 S. Ponderosa Trl.
1754 – intimidation threat, 39646 Ecorse
1755 – mental, 11875 Quirk Rd., Girlstown
1827 – assault & battery, 11086 Oak Lane
1833 – larceny, 11605 Haggerty
1843 – mental, 12692 Hannan Rd.
1944 – larceny, 13492 Beacon Trl.

Tuesday, May 1:
0013 – noise complaint, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.
0024 – assault & battery, 48920 Denton
0759 – larceny, Walmart
0839 – assault & battery, Hannan/Van Born
0903 – larceny from auto, 48031 S. I-94 Service
1205 – disturbance, 2181 Rawsonville Rd.
1225 – larceny, Dollar Tree
1234 – juvenile complaint, 6238 Truman
1553 – disorderly conduct, 45707 S. I-94 Service
1643 – retail fraud, Kmart
1745 – property damage accident, Rawsonville/ W. Huron River Dr.
1805 – assault & battery, 9970 Rolan Meadows Dr
2014 – assault & battery, 48561 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2126 – noise complaint, 42040 Hayes St.
2211 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave./Denton

Wednesday, May 2:
0001 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
0100 – noise complaint, 46020 Lake Villa Dr.
0333 – felony assault, 11649 Meadows Ln.
0448 – hospice, 6648 Doree Ave.
0709 – assault & battery, 41611 S. Bellridge Dr.
0815 – property damage accident, W. Huron River Dr./Lake Pointe Pass
1218 – juvenile complaint, 8701 Belleville
1221 – holdup alarm, 13107 Edgedale Dr.
1225 – larceny, 44850 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1252 – assault & battery, 50800 Martz Rd.
1337 – larceny, 45525 N. I-94 Service Dr.
1506 – fight, 7696 Belleville Rd.
1621 – intimidation threat, 8854 Parkwood Dr.
1737 – child abuse, Walmart
1742 – fraud, 2039 Rawsonville
1745 – harassment call, 109 Maple
1927 – disorderly conduct, Walmart
2002 – property damage accident, 10760 Belleville
2009 – malicious destruction of property, Bemis / Lohr
2019 – trespassing, Walmart
2024 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse / Haggerty
2042 – assault & battery, 6039 Victoria St.
2134 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville
2202 – juvenile complaint, 48711 S. I-94 Service

2211 – harassment call, 42542 N. Cumberland Dr.
2301 – assault & battery, Tyler/Charter Club Dr.

Thursday, May 3:
0034 – fight, 11 Birch Dr.
0217 – breaking & entering, 51264 Freedom Way
0258 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 9084 Parkwood Dr.
0649 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
0820 – larceny from auto, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.
0830 – larceny from auto, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.
0901 – fraud, 44401 S. I-94 Service Dr.
1115 – larceny, 6735 Haggerty
1224 – assault & battery, 6605 Maurice Dr.
1313 – personal injury, 7981 Belleville Rd.
1452 – property damage accident, 8124 Belleville
1501 – larceny from auto, 43646 N. I-94 Service
1521 – personal injury accident, E. Huron River Dr./Haggerty Rd.
1732 – fraud, 9329 Parkwood
1751 – private property accident, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1841 – harassment call, 13209 Westlake Circle
1847 – ATV/ORV complaint, 44911 Ecorse Rd.
1927 – larceny, 13389 Lake Point Blvd.
1957 – operating while intoxicated, Ecorse / Belleville
2027 – shots fired, 8800 Parkwood Manor
2301 – property damage accident, Rawsonville/ W. Huron River Dr.

Friday, May 4:
0019 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville / Bog
0051 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 41547 Van Born
0109 – suspicious person, Beckley/Denton
0242 – retail fraud, 10915 Belleville
0743 – missing person, 49285 Hull Rd.
0922 – malicious destruction of property, 51247 Capitol Dr.
0958 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 41547 Van Born
1136 – loitering, 10930 Belleville
1146 – larceny, 26 Brandi Dr.
1308 – intimidation threat, 49041 S. I-94 Service
1436 – noise complaint, 48021 S. I-94 Service
1452 – private property accident, Walmart
1615 – breaking & entering, 89 N. Ponderosa Trl.
1819 – missing person, 8172 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1849 – disturbance, Victory Park
1855 – disturbance, 10136 Kennedy St.
1856 – juvenile complaint, 89 N. Ponderosa Trl.
1908 – retail fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
1920 – assault & battery, 89 N. Ponderosa Trl.
1930 – disturbance, Kirkridge Playground
1947 – operating while intoxicated, 2193 Rawsonville
2015 – noise complaint, Westlake Circle/Belleville
2110 – personal injury accident, Tyler/Belleville
2150 – trespassing, 14210 Pond Bluff Dr.
2214 – loud party complaint, 6575 Parkside Dr.
2229 – intimidation threat, 6569 Parkside Dr.
2254 – disturbance, 8879 Parkwood Dr.

Saturday, May 5:
0138 – breaking & entering, 14468 Pond Bluff Dr.
0209 – shots fired, Michigan Ave./Denton Rd.
0308 – missing person, 9890 Dartmoor Cir.
0553 – intimidation threat, 8872 Parkwood Dr.
0837 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 9084 Parkwood Dr.
1225 – operating while intoxicated, Belleville / Tyler
1417 – child abuse, 7848 Kirkridge Park Dr.
1429 – shots fired, Tyler/Walden Blvd.
1431 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 11566 Quirk
1623 – property damage accident, 9750 Belleville
1728 – juvenile complaint, Morton Taylor Rd. / Heatherfield
1833 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2224 – loud party complaint, 8712 Hardwood
2238 – larceny from auto, 51322 Sylvia
2318 – harassment call, 51322 Sylvia Dr.
2326 – narcotics crime, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.
2356 – trespassing, Jeremy Rd./Bradley Dr.

Also on this week’s log are 259 traffic stops, including 44 on I-94.

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Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 29:
0001 – agency assist, 42 N. Biggs Ave.
0144 – E-911 hang up/investigation, 42 Carmell
0250 – loud party complaint, 363 Church St.
1215 – civil matter, 48 Carmell
1257 – suspicious situation, Sumpter/Paula’s
1456 – suspicious person, 204 Victorian Ln.

Monday, April 30:
0827 – follow-up, BHS
0843 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Feed Mill
1300 – warrant arrest, Canton PD
1356 – found property, Owen/South
1509 – assault & battery, 251 Henry St.
1552 – larceny, 271 Henry St.
1606 – vehicle lockout, BHS
1620 – vehicle lockout, BHS
2230 – intimidation threat, BHS

Tuesday, May 1:
0303 – harassment call, 160 Church St.
1052 – misc. complaint, 330 E. Huron River Dr.
1255 – welfare check, 169 N. Liberty St.
1458 – disorderly conduct, J&T Towing
1756 – background investigation, 6 Main
1827 – serve warrant, 63 Biggs

Wednesday, May 2:
0038 – property damage accident, Wexford/ East Huron River Dr.
0145 – suspicious vehicle, 811 Estrada
0752 – vehicle lockout, 13 Carmell St.
1114 – welfare check, 573 E. Huron River Dr.
1606 – assist fire dept., 3 Santa Clara St.
1618 – animal complaint, 53 Washash Ave.
1830 – E-911 cellular, 548 Sumpter
2009 – agency assist, Bemis/Savage

Thursday, May 3:
0210 – mental, 506 Harbour Pointe Dr.
1234 – suspicious vehicle, 200 Henry St.
1338 – private property accident, Sumpter Rd./ Industrial Park Dr.
1524 – vagrant, Liberty/E. Huron River Dr.
1701 – animal complaint, 305 Edison Ave.
1908 – suspicious vehicle, Victory Park

Friday, May 4:
0220 – welfare check, 241 Second St.
0238 – narcotics crime, 51 Loza Lane
1101 – intimidation threat, 167 Fourth, library
1146 – all other traffic, N. Liberty/First
1152 – vehicle lockout, BHS
1236 – civil matter, 27 Menlo Park Dr.
1318 – vehicle lockout, BHS
1447 – juvenile complaint, 500 W. Columbia
1538 – background investigation, 357 Victorian Ct
1949 – suspicious person, Main/N. Liberty
2052 – suspicious situation, 146 High St., Johnny’s
2255 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.

Saturday, May 5:
0106 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter, Co-op
1021 – misc. complaint, BHS
1508 – suspicious person, Victory Park
1519 – ATV/ORV complaint, 30 Carmell St.
2121 – suspicious person, 65 S. Liberty St.
2315 – parking complaint, 410 Estrada
2356 – suspicious situation, 700 Savage

Also on this week’s log are 20 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 29:
1643 – animal complaint, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2257 – malicious destruction of property, Colorado

Monday, April 30:
0142 – animal complaint, Schrock/Willow
0443 – well-being check, 29000 bl. Sumpter
0617 – suspicious vehicle, 29000 bl. Sherwood
0654 – alarm, 18000 bl. Savage
1013 – harassment complaint, 21000 bl. Fenster
1305 – warrant arrest, out of township
1317 – alarm, 17000 bl. Martinsville
1332 – citizen assist, Oakville Waltz/Sumpter
1513 – family trouble, 45000 bl. Paris
1552 – fraud complaint, 27000 bl. Dunn
1621 – breaking & entering report, 44000 bl. Clay

1645 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter
1839 – suspicious vehicle, Willis/Sherwood
1952 – civil dispute, Greenmeadow
2109 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Sumpter
2130 – well-being check, 40000 bl. Willow
2152 – animal complaint, Willow/Sumpter
2203 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sumpter
2228 – assault, Greenmeadow
2248 – harassment complaint, 50000 bl. Willis
2331 – property damage accident, Oakville Waltz/Elwell

Tuesday, May 1:
0857 – trespassing complaint, New Mexico
1142 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Harris
1315 – fire dept. assist, Country Club
1340 – larceny report, 43000 bl. Judd
1543 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow
1924 – threats complaint, 45000 bl. Harris
2113 – harassment complaint, 45000 bl. Harris
2130 – suspicious person, New Mexico
2254 – property damage accident, Willow/Sumpter

Wednesday, May 2:
0435 – traffic hazard, Rawsonville/Willis
1055 – larceny report, 27000 bl. Sumpter
1955 – mental health commitment, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.

2007 – fight, Bemis/Savage
2019 – animal complaint, Edgewood
2113 – suspicious person, 21000 bl. Bohn
2135 – harassment complaint, Greenmeadow

Thursday, May 3:
0320 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Willow
0947 – well-being check, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1313 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1610 – well-being check, 46000 bl. Executive
1643 – 911 hangup investigation, 29000 bl. Martinsville
1705 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville
1711 – civil dispute, New Mexico
1720 – child abuse/neglect, Wyoming
1828 – 911 hangup investigation, 29000 bl. Martinsville
1834 – animal complaint, Stonecrest
2112 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville
2335 – citizen assist, 6000 bl. Oakville Waltz

Friday, May 4:
0101 – mental health commitment, Utah
0912 – animal complaint, Harris/Haggerty
1348 – fire dept. assist, Country Club
1554 – neighbor dispute, 45000 bl. Judd
1718 – larceny report, 46000 bl. Judd
2217 – larceny report, 18000 bl. Martinsville
2232 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis
2338 – juvenile complaint, 40000 bl. Harris

Saturday, May 5:
1007 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Bemis
1205 – animal complaint, 42000 bl. Wear
1230 – alarm, Rustic Lane
1232 – reckless driving complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1340 – larceny report, 42000 bl. Harris
1552 – shots fired investigation, 46000 bl. Willis
1614 – assist other agency, Willis/Bunton
1630 – fire dept. assist, Wayside
1654 – property damage accident, 11000 bl. Bemis
2014 – shots fired investigation, 21000 bl. Elwell
2033 – ORV complaint, 20000 bl. Elwell
2040 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Lane
2041 – suspicious incident, 27000 bl. Sherwood
2052 – reckless driving complaint, 50000 bl. Arkona
2238 – family trouble, 17000 bl. Sharon Ct.
2324 – breaking & entering report, 27000 bl. Sumpter

Also on this week’s log are 17 misc. details, 132 patrol checks, 82 traffic stops, and 18 follow-up investigations.

Tyler Road over I-275 closes for 7 weeks for overpass work

Van Buren Township Police announces that construction began Friday on the Tyler Road overpass at I-275 and the public is advised to plan alternate routes. Motorists also should expect delays on I-275. The project completion will take approximately 7 weeks. Employees at GE, Dana Corp., and Visteon in the Grace Lake Corporate Center, may still enter their facility off Hannan or Ecorse roads.

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Pete Pitzen works to get all his S. Biggs neighbors flying flag on June 14

By Rosemary K. Oztzman
Independent Editor

Pete Pitzen is on a mission to get all his neighbors on South Biggs Street in the City of Belleville to fly American Flags on Flag Day, June 14.

He has been going door to door with a flyer asking the neighbors to make their street unique in the city by having every house flying a flag.

"Wouldn't it be neat, if in all of Belleville, South Biggs was the only street to have a flag at every home?" he asks in his flyer. "I would hope that every house in Belleville would display the Flag, but I seriously doubt that will happen.

"Help me make South Biggs special in this regard and create a sense of pride in our neighborhood and our country."

Pitzen has jumped onboard Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor's "American Pride Project" with the goal of having all homes and businesses in the Belleville area fly flags on Flag Day, but especially in the City of Belleville.

"Let's show America that we still have our Pride by displaying the American Flag," Chief Taylor said.

He has porch flag kits, with poles and brackets, for \$15, with a bumper sticker thrown in. If people want a flag and don't have the money, he has donations from sponsors and so the flags can be given

away free of charge.

Major sponsors who have donated \$100 or more to the American Pride Project are Burhop's Collision, Delux Tents & Events, Mr. Muffler, Belleville Central Business Community, Polish Legion of American Veterans USA Post #164, Tuscan Manor, and Belleville Charhouse.

Whatever funds are left over after the flag project concludes will be given to Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed Veterans of America, Chief Taylor said.

Chief Taylor gave recent presentations on the flag project to the Belleville City Council and the township boards of Sumpter and Van Buren. The Sumpter Police Department agreed to provide flag kits from their office, as well.

Chief Taylor has a big box of flags at the Belleville Police Department, 6 Main Street. For more information call Chief Taylor at 699-2710 or drop by the Belleville Police Station.

For more information on Pitzen's project on South Biggs, call him at 699-8563, contact him at Pitzp2@yahoo.com or drop by his home at 48 S. Biggs

Pitzen said if one of his neighbors has a problem installing the kit, "Let me know and I'll see what I can do to help."



2012 SUMPTER COUNTRY FESTIVAL Memorial Weekend

Thursday, May 24

Carnival & Beer Tent opens @ 5pm - closes @ 11pm

Princess Pageant 7pm

Saturday, May 26

Carnival & Beer Tent opens @ 12 Noon - closes @ 12 Midnight

12 pm - Parade -

Starts at Judd & Sumpter Rds.

Impersonators/Tribute Artists 2pm - 10pm

The Whatabouts, Jerry Lee Lewis, Patsy Cline,

Toby Keith, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn,

Sherman Arnold "Elvis",

The Blues Brothers,

Allen as Tim & The Dance Hall Rockers - 10pm - close

Friday, May 25

Carnival & Beer Tent opens @ 5pm - closes @ 12 Midnight

D.J. Music 5-8 pm

Live Entertainment..... 8 pm - close

Sunday, May 27

Carnival & Beer Tent opens @ 12 Noon - closes @ 12 Midnight

Classic Car Show Noon

D.J. Music 1-3pm

Dwight Carroll 4-7pm

Live Band - 8 pm-close

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Rain date - Monday

Monday, May 28

Carnival & Beer Tent opens @ 12 Noon - closes @ 10pm

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D.J. Music 1 pm - 7 pm

Live Music 7 pm - close

Auto Enduro Demo by

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Lunch Box told to go ahead with outdoor café while permit is pending

By Bob Mytych
Independent Special Writer

At its April 12 meeting, the Belleville Planning Commission told the owners of the Lunch Box Restaurant on Main Street to go ahead with its plans to operate outdoor seating while its café permit is undergoing administrative approval.

The city's café ordinance regulating outdoor seating took on a couple of revisions over the years, once for JB's Place several years ago and the other for the Bayou Grill in 2009.

Lunch Box owners Rodney and Ashley Herald were told their application would have to be approved by the planning commission, then the city council for final approval. Their request was placed on the April 12 agenda.

But, under commissioners' review at the meeting, they interpreted that the most recent language calls for a special use permit which would require a public hearing along with residential notification by mail.

Ashley Herald, who attended the meeting in the absence of her husband who was out of town on business, was instructed to return in May for a special hearing, which was to be scheduled. The meeting ended without approval of any kind.

Belleville Building Director Keith Boc called Ashley back into the chambers and told her to go ahead with her plans and move forward with the project, citing that this was the city's mix-up and that the city would waive the special approval permit application fees.

Herald was advised to obtain a letter of support from the property owner and attach it to the application to keep on file with the city. The café permit was the only item on the evening's agenda.

The Lunch Box is proposing to offer a 24' by 30' outdoor seating area next to the existing building, separated by a 14' open space adjacent to the building's side door. A portable café fencing system would be erected along the perimeter of the seating area. There will be no seating on the sidewalk in front of the building.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman
On Saturday, the Friends of the Belleville Area District Library held their used book sale. The group earns about \$10,000 a year to help the library with items and events.

Police arrest woman for stabbing boyfriend with kitchen knife

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Denise Lashawn Courtwright, 43, of Van Buren Township has been charged with one count of Felonious Assault and one count of Domestic Violence, second offense, after she allegedly stabbed her boyfriend several times in the chest and arm with a kitchen knife.

The incident started with a verbal argument at 11649 Meadows Lane just before 3:33 a.m. May 2.

When police arrived Jack Ray Lantz, 56, of VBT, was bleeding profusely. He was transported to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain said Courtwright was very uncooperative and resisted officers.

She was arrested and later charged by

the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. She was arraigned on the charges at 34th District Court and bond was set at \$10,000 cash.

Courtwright was remanded to the Wayne County Jail. A preliminary exam was set for 9 a.m., Wednesday, May 16 at 34th District Court in Romulus.

Tiger golf bows to Skyline, beats Annapolis

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

The Belleville Tigers golf team started the month of May off with a 160-178 loss to Ann Arbor Skyline on May 3, played at the Harbour Club Golf Course.

Casey Fecker led the team with a 41, followed by a 43 from Mike Brothers, 45 from Mark Dybicki, and a 49 from Hunter Manke. Other teams' scores included a 51 from Kris Sharp and a 52 by Tyler White.

In a recent match against Annapolis, the

Tigers defeated their division rivals, 179-235, also played at Harbour Club. Brothers led the team with a 41, followed by Fecker and Dybicki with a pair of 43s, and Kris Sharp with 52.

Back on April 18, Belleville lost to Garden City behind the efforts of Brothers and Sharp each with 43s while Tyler White and Jacob Siterlet carded 46s. The match was contested at the Westland Municipal Golf Course.

The Tigers have only one match this week at Edsel Ford on Tuesday before heading off for the Dearborn Elite Invitational next Monday.



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Kevin McNamara announces candidacy for redrawn District 11

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin M. McNamara, D-Canton, has served the residents of Wayne County in District 11 for the past six years with a focus on improving the infrastructure, parks and recreation, and supporting senior programs.



Last week he announced that he will be running for re-election in the redrawn Wayne County Commission District 11 that is comprised of the communities of Belleville, Huron Township, Romulus, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township, Wayne, and a southern portion of Westland.

McNamara has led efforts to combine federal and state road dollars with county road funds to improve roads in western Wayne County. Since 2006, an excess of \$25 Million in county funds have been committed to road projects that led to the reconstruction or improvement of 15 roads in western Wayne County to improve safety and traffic flow.

Commissioner McNamara has championed improvements in the Wayne County Parks system, including a project that will see the Lower River Rouge reconnected from Canton to Dearborn Heights with the removal of the Wayne Road dam.

He recently led an effort to ensure that the Chandler Family Aquatic Center in Detroit will remain open for another five years through a county funding commitment.

Furthermore, McNamara collaborated with the Wayne County Road Commission and the Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority to join the DDA's resources with federal road funds to reconstruct an unsafe and cumbersome intersection at Belleville Road and Ecorse that will begin this summer.

Currently, McNamara serves as chair of the youth services committee of the Wayne County Commission, a standing committee that he urged his colleagues to form in 2011 to ensure that youth programs continue to be funded appropriately, especially juvenile services. He also serves as vice chair of the committee on public services, which oversees the county's roads and bridges and parks and recreation operations.

McNamara serves as a member of the ways and means committee; public safety committee; technology task force; and the transparency in Wayne County Government taskforce. Additionally, he is a member of the Wayne County Head Start Governing Board.

McNamara is a delegate to SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan's regional planning agency, where he serves on the executive and finance committees. He is also active on committees which oversee transportation and infrastructure projects.

A current resident of Canton, McNamara is in the process of moving his home within the redrawn district. The current District 11 is Belleville, Canton Township, Sumpter Township, Van Buren Township and Wayne.

The districts were redrawn as a result of the 2010 U.S. Census results. The original district's population grew by 12.9 percent, largely fueled by the growth in Canton and Van Buren.

McNamara is a leader with a career that spans government, higher education and corporate management and sales. His commitment is to significantly enhance Wayne County's infrastructure to help improve the everyday lives of residents and businesses.

He frequently interacts with citizens, businesses, and all types of groups and collaborates with Wayne County Commission colleagues to develop innovative ways to move the county forward while adhering to the difficult budget constraints facing all government entities in Michigan and across the country.

More Letters

Thanks for help with Democratic Caucuses

To the Editor:

This is an open letter of appreciation from the Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club to the Tri-Community for their help and support with the Democratic Caucuses which were held on Saturday May 5, 2012.

To the City of Belleville for the use of Victory Station, the Township of Sumpter for the use of Community Center, and to the Wayne County Fair Grounds in Van Buren Township for the use of the newly decorated Dining Hall.

Everything went smooth and without a hitch. Again on behalf of the Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club, a big thank you to all of you. Democratically yours,
John Herman, President
Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club

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